

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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a2
- 1 1. A method, comprising:  
2 responsive to a request, retrieving a web page designated in the request;  
3 modifying an address associated with the retrieved web page to indicate an  
4 address associated with a secure server that retrieved the web page; and  
5 encrypting data associated with the retrieved web page and sending, via a  
6 secure link, the encrypted data to a terminal that sent the request.
  - 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the secure link comprises a secure sockets  
2 layer (SSL) link.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the address associated with the  
2 retrieved web page comprises modifying a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or  
3 Internet Protocol (IP) address of a source web site that originated the web page.
  - 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the address associated with the  
2 retrieved web page comprises modifying an address associated with a hypertext link  
3 in the retrieved web page to indicate the address associated with the secure server.
  - 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying computer code  
2 associated with the retrieved web page to cause subsequent requests related to the  
3 retrieved web page to be sent to the secure server instead of to a source web site  
4 that originated the web page.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising decrypting the address associated  
2 with the web page from an address received along with the request from the  
3 terminal, the address received along with the request from the terminal comprising a  
4 concatenation of the address associated with the web page and the address  
5 associated with the secure server.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the retrieving, modifying,  
2 encrypting, and sending while the secure link is active.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising triggering a deletion of stored  
2 electronic files at the terminal related to a communication via the secure link, in  
3 response to termination of the communication.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, at the secure server, controlling  
2 transmission of electronic files to the terminal based on preferences received from  
3 the terminal.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 providing an intermediate unit to receive the request from the terminal;  
3 at the secure server, receiving the request, forwarded from the intermediate  
4 unit;  
5 retrieving the web page designated in the request from a source;  
6 modifying address information in the retrieved web page to indicate a source  
7 address corresponding to an address of the intermediate unit rather than to an  
8 address of the source that provided the web page; and

9 directly sending an encrypted version of the retrieved web page from the  
10 secure sever to the terminal, via the secure link.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving, at the secure server,  
2 communication protocol information related to a communication between the  
3 terminal and the intermediate unit, to allow the secure server to respond to requests  
4 sent to the intermediate unit from the terminal.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving subsequent requests  
2 from the terminal at the intermediate unit rather than directly at the secure server  
3 from the terminal.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing under a pseudonym at a  
2 location communicatively coupled to the secure server, electronic files sent from a  
3 web site along with the web page.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 obtaining information related to a user's communication with the secure  
3 server;  
4 providing the obtained information to an entity based on permission of the  
5 user and in exchange for providing the secure link; and  
6 providing advertisements from the entity to the user related to the obtained  
7 information.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 providing a viewing window at the terminal;

3 displaying the retrieved web page at the viewing window; and  
4 providing an interface for subsequent communication with the secure server  
5 from the viewing window.

1 16. A method, comprising:

2 providing an intermediate unit to receive a request for a web page from a  
3 terminal;

4 at a secure server, receiving the request, forwarded from the intermediate  
5 unit;

6 retrieving the web page designated in the request from a source;

7 modifying address information in the retrieved web page to indicate a source  
8 address corresponding to an address associated with the intermediate unit rather  
9 than to an address associated with a source that provided the web page; and

10 directly sending an encrypted version of the retrieved web page from the  
11 secure server to the terminal, via a secure link.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving, at the secure server,  
2 communication protocol information related to a communication between the  
3 terminal and the intermediate unit, to allow the secure server to respond to requests  
4 sent to the intermediate unit from the terminal.

1 18. The method of claim 16 further comprising receiving subsequent requests  
2 from the terminal at the intermediate unit rather than directly at the secure server  
3 from the terminal.

1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

2 receiving from the intermediate unit and at the secure server, encrypted  
3 address information associated with the web page, concatenated with the address  
4 associated with the intermediate unit;

5 decrypting the encrypted address information and retrieving a web page  
6 corresponding thereto; and

7 re-encrypting the address associated with the retrieved web page and  
8 concatenating the re-encrypted address with the address associated with the  
9 intermediate unit.

1 20. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when  
2 executed by a processor, cause the processor to effect the following:

3 responsive to a request, retrieve a web page designated in the request;

4 modify an address associated with the retrieved web page to indicate an  
5 address associated with a secure server that retrieved the web page; and

6 encrypt data associated with the retrieved web page and send, via a secure  
7 link, the encrypted data to a terminal that sent the request.

1 21. The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the instructions cause the  
2 processor to effect the following:

3 send the encrypted data via the secure link by sending the encrypted data via  
4 a secure docket layer (SSL) link.

1 22. The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the instructions cause the  
2 processor to effect the following:

3 modify the address associated with the retrieved web page by modifying a  
4 Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or Internet Protocol (IP) address of a source web  
5 site that originated the web page.

1 23. The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the instructions cause the  
2 processor to effect the following:

3 receive the request from the terminal forwarded from an intermediate unit;  
4 retrieve the web page designated in the request from a source;  
5 modify address information in the retrieved web page to indicate a source  
6 address corresponding to an address associated with the intermediate unit rather  
7 than to an address associated with the source that provided the web page; and  
8 directly send an encrypted version of the retrieved web page from the secure  
9 server to the terminal, via the source link.

1 24. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when  
2 executed by a processor cause the processor to effect the following:

3 receive a request for a web page from a terminal; and  
4 forward the request from the terminal to a secure server to allow the secure  
5 server to retrieve the web page designated in the request from a source and to allow  
6 the secure server to directly send an encrypted version of the retrieved web page  
7 from the secure server to the terminal, via a secure link.

1 25. The machine-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the instructions further  
2 cause the processor to effect the following:

3        send to the secure server communication protocol information related to a  
4        communication with the terminal, to allow the secure server to respond to requests  
5        sent from the terminal.

1        26.    The machine-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the instructions further  
2        cause the processor to effect the following:

3               receive subsequent requests from directly the terminal rather than directly at  
4        the secure server.

1        27.    The machine-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the instructions further  
2        cause the processor to effect the following:

3               receive an encrypted address concatenated with other address information  
4        via a secure connection;

5               decrypt the encrypted address and retrieve an address associated with the  
6        secure server or the address associated with the web page therefrom; and

7               send the request to the decrypted address.

1        28.    An apparatus, comprising:

2               a processor coupled to a storage unit, the storage unit being capable of  
3        storing a computer program; and

4               a communication unit to allow the processor to communicate with a terminal  
5        and with a web site, wherein responsive to a request from the terminal, the  
6        processor is capable of effecting execution of the computer program to retrieve a  
7        requested web page from the web site via the communication unit, to modify an  
8        address of the retrieved web page to a different address, to encrypt data associated

9 with the retrieved web page, and to send the encrypted data to the terminal via a  
10 secure link communicatively coupleable to the communication unit.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the secure link comprises a secure  
2 sockets layer (SSL) link.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a database unit  
2 communicatively coupled to the processor to store electronic files under a  
3 pseudonym, the electronic files corresponding to data sent from the web site along  
4 with the retrieved web page.

1 31. An apparatus, comprising:

2 a server communicatively coupleable to a network and to a terminal, the  
3 server being capable of sending data from the network to the terminal in an  
4 encrypted form via a secure link, in response to a request received from the  
5 terminal, wherein the data sent to the terminal indicates the server as a source of the  
6 data.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the secure link comprises a secure  
2 sockets layer (SSL) link.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the server is communicatively coupleable  
2 to an intermediate unit, the server being capable of receiving the request from the  
3 terminal via the intermediate unit and sending the data responsive to the request  
4 directly to the terminal via the secure link.

1 34. A system, comprising:

2 a server communicatively coupleable to a network and to a terminal, the  
3 server being capable of sending data from the network to the terminal in an  
4 encrypted form via a secure link, in response to a request received from the  
5 terminal, wherein the data sent to the terminal indicates the server as a source of the  
6 data; and

7 an intermediate unit communicatively coupleable to the server, the server  
8 being capable of receiving the request from the terminal via the intermediate unit  
9 and sending the data responsive to the request directly to the terminal via the secure  
10 link.

1 35. The system of claim 34 wherein the secure link comprises a secure sockets  
2 layer (SSL) link.

1 36. The system of claim 34 wherein the intermediate unit is capable of receiving  
2 subsequent requests from the terminal and sending the request to the server, the  
3 server being capable of receiving the requests from the intermediate unit and  
4 sending data responsive to the request directly to the terminal, the data sent to the  
5 terminal indicating a source address corresponding to the intermediate unit rather  
6 than an address corresponding to the server.